

**Tiverton Open Space Commission and Land Preservation**  
Minutes of February 17, 2009 meeting  
Essex Library, Highland Road

Present: Susan Anderson, Dick Bixby, Gayle Lawrence, Garry Plunkett, Phil Schuyler, Martha Moore, Brian Janes, and Martin Van Hof. Guest: Stu Hardy

Call to Order: 7:09 PM by Garry Plunkett

The agenda was reordered to deal with the item III, first: Fort Barton Historic Preservation. Garry gave an overview of where we stand in the process of creating a strategy to protect this historic site. The general concept would be to utilize grants to support the creation and installation of appropriate signs and the erection of some protective installations.

General discussion followed. Stu suggested having a professional study the site to determine its historical importance and to guide TOSC in the best methods to communicate its significance to the general public. A second step would be to design and install the signs and protective installations. Garry suggested that the Historic Preservation Advisory Board take on this project, with TOSC support.

Three steps were envisioned: 1) study of site, with findings, 2) publicizing the "Fort Barton Project" in the media, and 3) finding funding sources and acquiring the means to carry out the project. There was general agreement with this approach.

At this point, the meeting returned to the posted agenda:

Administrative Announcements and Reports:

- The minutes of January 26, 2009 were accepted .
- The upcoming RI Land and Water Conference was discussed. Gayle, Susan and Garry are planning to attend.
- Treasurer's Report: Dick Bixby reported: Open Space Acquisition \$45,597.31; OS Stewardship \$2,689.29; OS Appropriation \$32.71; Fort Barton Appropriation \$1,704.61. Accepted.
- Volunteer hours: Garry polled the members and received reports of recent in-kind volunteer hours.
- The Pocassetlands Stewardship Fund Annual report was reviewed by TOSC. MOTION: To accept. Passed. Unanimous.

Trails and Habitats:

- Martha announced that there is another request for an Eagle Scout project. After discussion, there was agreement that an appropriate project would involve work along the stone wall at the entrance to the Babcock field and around the old kiosk.

- Fort Barton: no report.

- Weetamoo Woods: There was a site walk in the grasslands area last week, led by Garry. The routine mowing of 8-rod way will be paid out of this year's appropriations. LJ will be in next week to brush hog work from the gate to Borden Brook. The grant that Tom Sandham put together for Babcock has some funds remaining and, with some new money from this year, can be used to have LJ grub the inside of the Babcock perimeter walls next week. The Fish & Wildlife Grant (still to be received) can be utilized for dealing with the interior stone wall remnants. MOTION: To proceed with the aforementioned expenditures. Passed. Unanimous. The new trail guides for Weetamoo are in circulation.

Education and Grants: Susan reported on a Garden Club meeting where the Weetamoo walks for Tiverton's second graders was discussed. Jim Spears is also planning two guided walks in Weetamoo.

Next Meeting: March 16th at 7:00 PM, Essex Library.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 PM Respectfully submitted: Phil Schuyler